

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3299

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, LI  
SUBJECT: GOL REACTION TO THE FIVE NATION NAMIBIA PROPOSALS

SUMMARY: BOTH PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT AND FOREIGN MINISTER C. CECIL DENNIS HAVE MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE FIVE NATION PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE NAMIBIAN SITUATION. PRESIDENT TOLBERT RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO GENERAL STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE EFFORTS BY THE UN AND THE FIVE POWERS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENDED THE FIVE POWERS BUT INCLUDED A STRONG CRITICISM OF THE FAILURE OF THE PROPOSAL TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR APRIL 27, PRESIDENT TOLBERT CALLED THE FIVE NATION PROPOSAL AND ITS ACCEPTANCE BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT "ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT NEWS IN RECENT TIMES EMANATING FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA". TOLBERT COMMENTED THAT "IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO OUR MINDS BECAUSE IT CONFIRMS THE PRINCIPLE OF A MULTI-RACIAL GOVERNMENT TO BE ESTABLISHED IN NAMIBIA, WHICH IS A TOTAL VARIANCE WITH THE  
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HEINOUS PHILISOPHY OF APARTHEID. TO OUR MIND, IT ENVISAGES THE UNITY OF THE SUPPRESSED PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA INTO NATIONAL HOMOGENEITY; IT MEANS THAT AT LONG LAST GROUP IDENTITY, TRIBE IDENTITY AND RACE IDENTITY BASED ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STANDARDS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THAT COUNTRY, WILL BE BROUGHT TO AN END. IT MEANS THE ADVENT OF NATIONAL FREEDOM, HUMAN

DIGNITY AND PROGRESS IN NAMIBIA."

"IF ITS ACCEPTANCE IS BY ALL PARTIES, THEN THE STRUGGLES OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (SWAPO) CAN BE BROUGHT TO A HERIOC CONCLUSION, AND THE PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA WILL BE ENABLED TO LIVE IN DIGNITY, RACIAL HARMONY AND PEACE. WE NOW LOOK FORWARD TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONTINUINGLY PERFORMING ITS ASSIGNED DUTIES AND DISCHARGING ITS SACRED RESPONSIBILITIES TO A HAPPY FINALIZATION".

2. FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS, IN A RECENT SPEECH AT THE UNGA NINTH SPECIAL SESSION, ALTHOUGH WELCOMING THE PROPOSAL, CONCENTRATED HIS REMARKS ON CRITICISM OF ITS FAILURE TO RESOLVE THE STATUS OF WALVIS BAY. HE APPEALED TO THE WESTERN POWERS TO MAKE A PUBLIC DECLARATION THAT WALVIS BAY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA. HE ARGUED THAT "AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA SHOULD BE LEFT TO PREOCCUPY ITSELF WITH THE TASK OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AND NOT BE SADDLED WITH THE BURDEN OF NEGOTIATION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME FOR WALVIS BAY."

3. REGARDING SWAPO, DENNIS SAID THAT WHILE THE GOL SUPPORTS A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIA QUESTION, "WE SHALL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SWAPO IN THE INTENSIFICATION  
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OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE AND SHOULD SOUTH AFRICA PERSIST IN HER INTRANSIGENCE, THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD UNDERSCORE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL THE URGENT NEED TO APPLY THE MOST DECISIVE MEASURES INCLUDING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS...." DISCUSSING CONDITIONS FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE, DENNIS STATED THAT "ANY FORMULA FOR INDEPENDENCE MUST ACCORD TO SWAPO A DISTINCTION COMMENSURATE WITH ITS ROLE AS THE LEGITIMATE LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY, FOR IT IS SWAPO THAT CONTINUES TO WAGE AN HEROIC STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF OPPOSITION...."

4. COMMENT: THESE STATEMENTS ARE CONSONANT WITH THE STANDING GOL POLICY REGARDING NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. DENNIS' EMPHASIS ON THE WALVIS BAY QUESTION WAS HIS WAY OF PLAYING TO THE STANDS BUT DOES NOT REPRESENT, IN OUR OPINION, ANY FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL.  
CARTER

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